(d) the area leased out for mining of granite and graphite during the last three years, State-wise; and

(e) the share of Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes in leasing out the mines during the above said period, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) Mining leases are granted as per provisions of Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957 and Mineral Concession Rules, 1960.

(b) As per Section 9 of the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957 the holder of a mining lease is required to pay royalty in respect of any mineral removed or consumed, at the rate as specified in the Second Schedule of the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957.

(c) to (e). The information is being collected from the various State Governments/UTs and will be placed on the Table of the House.

[English]

Distribution of Basmati Rice and Wheat

1747. SHRI R.L.P. VERMA : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to distribute basmati rice and better quality deshi wheat through the public distribution system to card holders;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) and (b). No, Sir.

(c) The type and variety of foodgrains supplied depend on its procurement, availability and affordability by the common man.

[Translation]

Air India Turnover

1748 SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM
SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the turnover of Air-India during the last three years;

(b) whether Indian Airlines and International Airport Authority of India are constantly making profits whereas Air-India has been incurring loss; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and the remedial steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTR OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) The total revenue of Air-India during 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96 is Rs. 2767.96 Cr., Rs. 3130.26 Cr. and Rs. 3542.29 (Prov.) Cr. respectively.

(b) and (c). Profit/Loss of Air-India, Indian Airlines and International Airports Authority of India (IAAI) during the period 1993-96 is given below :

(Rs. in crores)

Name of the PSU	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
Air India	201.90 (Profit)	40.80 (Profit)	244.00 (Loss)
Indian Airlines	258.46 (Loss)	188.73 (Loss)	134.25 (Loss)
IAAI	50.22	97.70	Merged with NAA from 1.4.95

The reasons for the losses of Indian Airlines are grounding of A-320 fleet, fluctuations in foreign exchange rates, decline in market share, agitation by pilots and increase in landing and other airport charges.

The reasons for the losses of Air-India are, increase in landing charges, increased competition, weakening of the rupee and expenditure on acquisition of additional aircraft capacity.

Both Air-India and Indian Airlines are taking steps to improve their product, image and on-time performance to attract more passengers and to increase revenue.

Air India Routes

1749. SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether routes of Air India are economically viable;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to make them economically viable?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTR OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. However, on a number of routes operated, Air India incurred operating loss during 1995-96, owing to increase in expenditure on landing, handling and navigational charges, reduction in yields and increase in fixed costs.